

App. No. 10/798,642

Reply to Office action of September 19, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**A. Summary of the Amendment**

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated September 19, 2005. Reexamination and reconsideration are courteously requested. By way of the present amendment, claims 1 to 6, and 15 are amended. Further, claims 10, 16, and 30 to 33 are canceled. Thus, claims 1 to 9, 11 to 15, 17 to 29, and 34 to 39 remain pending for the Examiner's consideration, with claims 1, 11, 15, 22, 34, and 37 being independent claims.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 10 to 29, and 34 to 39 are directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for a thorough examination of these claims.

C. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1, 3 to 4, and 6 to 10 are rejected as being indefinite, and more particularly for failing to positively recite a rhenium/ruthenium alloy. Claims 1 and 15 are amended to better recite how the rhenium/ruthenium alloy is produced from a heating step. In view of the amendment, it is believed that these rejections should be withdrawn.

D. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 103(a)

Claims 1 to 9, and 30 to 33 are rejected as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,209,388 (Mittendorf). These rejections are believed to be moot in view of the present amendment to claim 1, which is amended to include the features of

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allowable claim 10, and the cancellation of claims 30 to 33. For at least these reasons, the prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

E. Conclusion

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants attorneys at the below-listed telephone number.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Dec. 19, 2005

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